

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, please note that a replacement formal drawing has been provided for Figure 5, which differs from originally filed Figure 5 by identifying piston rods 61a and 62a.

The title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The new title reads as follows:
--METHOD FOR GENERATING COMPONENT MOUNTING DATA AND COMPONENT MOUNTING METHOD--.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

Claims 1-27 have been cancelled and claims 28-71 have been added. These claims have been drafted taking into account the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues raised by the Examiner, are believed to be free of many of these issues, and are otherwise believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, with regard to certain of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues, please note the following.

The phrase “and for” in line 16 of claims 1 and 2 is believed to be correctly used, and accordingly, this phrase has been maintained in claims 28 and 58. The phrase “is a desirably observed rule” is believed to be correct and thus has not been changed as suggested by the Examiner. The quoted language bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action has also been maintained in the new claims, because this language is believed to be clear and definite from the manner by which it is used. The subject matter of claim 17 is believed to be clear, and accordingly, this subject matter has been maintained in the currently pending claims. And, even though the multiple dependent format of the claims is believed to be in compliance with U.S. Patent Office practice, the claims have been rewritten so as to remove the multiple dependency thereof. For the Examiner’s convenience, the following table is provided to show how currently pending claims 28-71 correspond to former claims 1-7 and 15-25.

Currently pending claims	Former claims
28	1
58	2
29	3
30	4
59	4
45	4
31	5
60	5
46	5
32	6
61	6
47	6
48	7
62	7
33	7
38	15
67	15
53	15
39	16
68	16
54	16
40	17
55	17
41	18
56	18

42	19
69	19
43	20
70	20
49	21
63	21
34	21
50	22
64	22
35	22
36	23
65	23
51	23
52	24
66	24
37	24
44	25
71	25
57	25

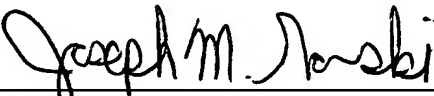
Claims 1-7 and 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '137. EP '137 has a publication date of January 23, 2002, which is subsequent to the effective filing date of the instant application, i.e., September 26, 2000, and accordingly, EP '137 is not available as prior art with regard to the instant application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should not be maintained, and the instant application should be passed to issue.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement Formal Drawing for Figure 5 has been filed concurrently.